Marketing anti-TB drugs without price approval by Warner Hindustan

1555. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 19 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th November, 1985 and state:

(a) since when Warner Hindustan is marketing Anti TB medicines without price approval and when did it come to Government's notice;

(b) what was the sales turn over of these products from the inception of price control order, 1979 per year;

(c) whether Government worked out the total overcharging by the company on these products and if so, what is the total amount accumulated from 1979 upto 31st October 1985;

(d) why penal action has not been taken against the company so far despite the fact that Government are fully armed with adequate power under provision 29 of Drugs Price Control Order, 1979 for violation of provision;

(e) whether it is a fact that apart from overcharging the company is producing these products without any authority; and

(f) if so, what are the reasons for delay in action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) M/s. WARNER Hindustan Limited starred marketing Isokin 300 tablets at a price higher than the Government approved price in 1982 and also introduced Isokin Liquid 100ml bottle without price approval in the same year. They trated both these products as Category IV products. This fact came to the Government's notice in early 1984.

(b) and (c) Details of sales turnover and the magnitude of total overcharged amount have not been compiled.

(d) and (f) Information has already been furnished in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 189 answered on 18th November. 1985.

(e) The company is producing Isokin Liquid and Isokin 300 tablets under authorisation of doubtful validity.

Overcharging of drug prices

1556. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 160 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th November, 1985 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of instances came to Government's notice for overcharging the prices, marketing without price approval and making huge unintended bnefits by the drug formulators;

(b) whether it is a fact that prices of medicines would have come down considerably, if the provisions of Price Control Order had been implemented;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the drug industry made around fifteen hundred crores unintended benefits from the inception of price control order;

(d) whether Government have worked out the figures if so, what are the details therefor; and

(e) by when the action for violation of provisions by drug's companies will be finally-taken and unit ended amounted collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The implementation of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order to the extent possible has helped to moderate the price of medicines.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Action to quantify the excess amount recoverable under the DPCO 1979 is being taken.